

***Town of Weymouth  
Massachusetts***

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# **Press Release**

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## **Town of Weymouth Breaking Ground on Columbian Square Improvement Project December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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**Weymouth, MA** – The Town of Weymouth will hold a ceremony to commemorate the groundbreaking of the Columbian Square Improvement Project on Monday, December 19, 2022.

**WHAT: Columbian Square Improvement Project Groundbreaking Ceremony**

**WHERE:** Fogg Library, 1 Columbian Street, Weymouth, MA

**WHEN:** Monday, December 19, 2022, at 11:00 AM

The Columbian Square Improvement Project will create a vibrant, walkable atmosphere spurring commerce in the historic village center, improve pedestrian safety; and streamline vehicular traffic movements through the area. The \$11 million-dollar project was designed by Green International Affiliates and will be constructed by P. A. Landers, Inc. This project was possible through Mayor Hedlund's commitment of \$7 million dollars of American Rescue Act (ARPA) Funds and a \$75,000 Community Planning Grant administered by the Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development.

"I'm excited the Columbian Square Improvement Project is finally underway, after years of planning and community input," **said Mayor Robert L. Hedlund.** "When this work is completed, Columbian Square will be revitalized, safer for pedestrians and the improvements will support the commerce in the historic village center."

Columbian Square is one of the four major village centers within Weymouth. The historic Columbian Square Village center is formed by the intersection of Pleasant Street with Columbian Street and Union Street. Historically, it is a major area of activity anchored by the Cameo Theater, Fogg Library, and a variety of businesses. The South Shore Hospital, while fronting Main Street, its emergency room and outpatient care services are accessed via Columbian Street.

"I am more than pleased that the Town was able to reach a consensus with all the stakeholders including property-owners/businesses in the square, residents, and Town officials including the district councilor to come up with an agreed upon plan that is now ready to commence construction," **said Director of Planning and Community Development Robert Luongo.** "Thanks to the efforts of Mayor Hedlund, funding was secured for this critical and long overdue infrastructure project that will benefit businesses, residents, the driving public and pedestrians."

Project improvements include:

Expanded sidewalk areas at each corner of the intersection of Pleasant Street with Columbian Street and Union Street, as well as expanded sidewalk areas at the intersection of Pleasant Street with Chauncy Street. These expanded sidewalk areas will be complete with:

- Brick pavers
- Planting beds
- Trees
- Pedestrian lighting
- Benches
- Pedestrian crossings that meet ADA guidelines at every crossing location.
- Signalizing the intersections of Pleasant Street with Columbian Street and Union Street for streamlined traffic flows.
- Maintaining some turn lanes and on-street parking but with an overall design that will control speeds of the approaching vehicles.

For more information about the Columbian Square Improvement Project, or to sign up for project news and updates visit [www.columbiansquareimprovements.com](http://www.columbiansquareimprovements.com).

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